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Instructions for fitting valise equipment

1874

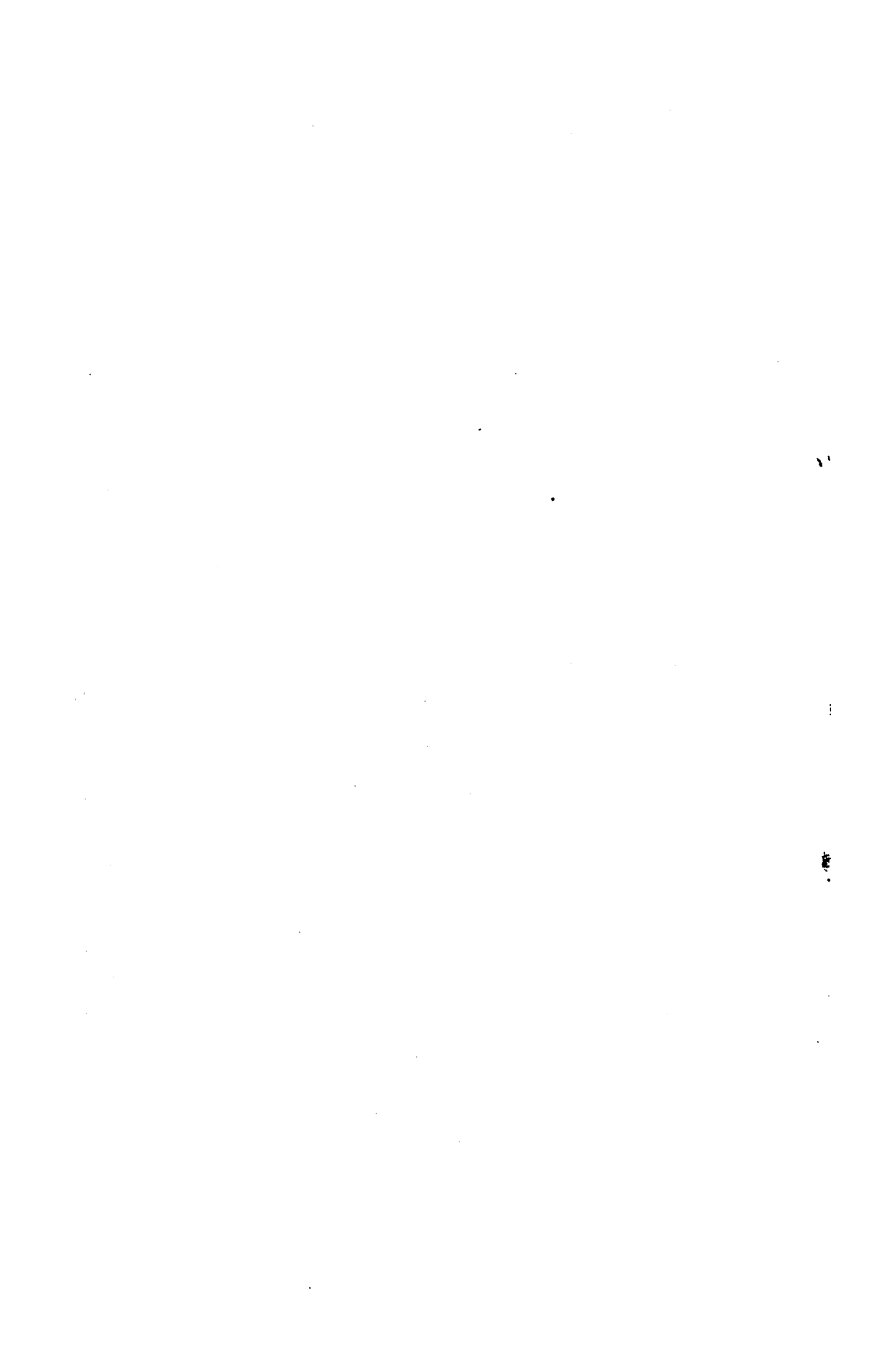


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## INSTRUCTIONS



## FITTING VALISE EQUIPMENT.



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#### ERRATA.

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In paragraph 8, *for* "left" *read* "right"

In Figures VI. and VII. the pouch should be on the right, instead of the left, side.

In Figure XVII. after the word valise, *for* "in" *read* "and"

# INSTRUCTIONS

## FOR

### FITTING VALISE EQUIPMENT.

---

1. The articles special to Valise Equipment consist of the following, viz. :—

- 1. bag, ammunition.
- 1 belt, waist, with union locket attached.
- 1 set of Braces.
- 2 pouches, ammunition, 20 rounds each.
- 1 pair straps, great coat.
- 1 " " mess tin (for the improved pattern canteen).
- 1 " " supporting valise.
- 1 valise to hold the service kit.

2. While the object is to provide means of carrying a good supply of ammunition, and the articles of kit, which a soldier requires during peace, or which must be borne during a campaign, it is not intended that the full equipment shall be always carried, or that the whole of the service kit shall necessarily be in the valise. On the contrary, it is proposed to carry only one pouch on ordinary occasions in peace, to use the ammunition bag only during rifle practice, or when required for blank ammunition, and to place in the valise merely such articles of the kit as may be wanted at the time, the other articles being carried for the men.

The object is in fact to leave the soldier as unencumbered as possible, except when there is a necessity for weighting him.

3. The braces are supplied in three sizes, viz., large, medium, and small; and future issues will be made according to the following scale of proportion to every 10 sets, viz.:—

Braces, large	-	-	-	1 set.
" medium	-	-	-	3 "
" small	-	-	-	6 "

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Total - 10 "

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4. With this proportion of sizes if attention is given to the arrangements in the following paragraph, it is expected that little or no alterations will be required in fitting the braces to the men.

5. Officers Commanding should be very careful not to allow the larger sizes to be issued to small men.



6. The small size as a rule should be given to all men under 5 ft. 7 in., the medium to men between 5 ft. 7 in. and 5 ft. 11 in., the large size to men over 5 ft. 11 in. Occasionally very stout men may require a size larger than above stated, in which case braces of the large size should be tried, and if found not large enough a special requisition should be made for larger braces, giving the chest measurement as well as the height of the man for whom the braces are required.

7. It is however advisable that in all cases the man should wear the equipment a week or two before deciding whether an alteration of the braces is necessary, and if in cases of very small men, the braces of the *small* size are found too large, the only alteration necessary will be, to rip out the stitches of the front brace straps where they pass through front ring, take up the straps to the required length, and then resew them without cutting off any portion of the straps. In cases where this alteration is found necessary the Officer commanding should make an application for authority to cover the expense of alteration, and at same time state the number of braces requiring such alteration.

8. On ordinary parades, and field days only one pouch should be carried, and that on the left side. (Fig. VII.)

9. On sentry when the valise is taken off the pouch may be slipped round to the back. (Fig. I.)

10. When the two pouches and the ammunition bag are worn, it is necessary that the braces should be worn to support the waist belt, as the weight of 60 or 70 rounds of ammunition is too great for the waist belt alone.

11. The back straps of braces are to be fastened to the buckles of the short strap from front brace ring under the arm, when the braces can be put on like a coat. The long straps on each front brace ring are then to be passed through the triangular loops on the waist belt and back to the buckle just below the brace ring. Fig. II. will show how this is done. It will be observed that the triangular brass loop can be pulled out farther at one end than the other, so as to give the proper obliquity for the strap. The ammunition bag, if required, is carried from the ring on the right side, the bag being brought up inside the waist belt as far as it will go to keep it steady.

12. If it is wished to carry the great coat with the ammunition but without the valise, it can now be put on. Two upper and two lower loops (both concealed) will be seen on the brace straps behind; the coat straps should be passed through these loops from below, upwards, and the coat secured, a twist of the coat strap should be made in the loops on the brace straps to prevent the coat slipping down. The coat is very steady in this way and balances well when there are 20 or more rounds in the front pouch or pouches. (Fig. III.) The best size for the coat is about 11 inches high by 16 inches in width; but for small men the most convenient size for the coat will be 10 inches high by 16 inches in width.

13. The valise should be carefully packed according to one of the methods hereafter described.

In all cases the towel should be rolled and placed on the top of the valise, inside the flap, so as to prevent the flap from cracking.

#### *A. Boots against the sides.*

The trousers should be put in first, and should be very tightly rolled, flat; the shirt should be folded flat, and then be put in, or it may be rolled; the boots should be placed upright against the sides, with the heels outwards, there will be then plenty of room for the towels, socks, and other articles. The object should be to have the soft articles nearest the person, and to have no bulging, which may be disagreeable. If necessary 20 rounds of ammunition can be carried in the two small pockets in the valise, making 70 or 80 in all that can be carried.

#### *B. Boots in the centre.*

The trousers should be turned inside out for folding, laid with waistband to the left, name upwards; then folded in three parts, waistband in upper fold to the right. They will then be placed in valise next the back, with edge of stripe showing on top. Trousers.

The uppers of the boots should be turned back and laced, then placed in the centre of the valise, heels downwards, soles touching each other. Boots.

The socks should be turned inside out, rolled and pocketed, so as to bring the number outside, and they should then be placed one in each heel of the boots. Socks.

The shirts, flannel and cotton, should be folded and rolled. The rolls to be  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, with name showing outwards, and placed next the boots, flannel shirt on the left, cotton shirt on the right. Shirts, flannel and cotton.

The holdall should be rolled and placed on right of cotton shirt. Holdall (complete).

The brush should be placed on the right of the holdall, with back towards it. Brush.

#### *C. Boots at the bottom.*

The trousers should be folded in three, and placed flat against the back of the valise, next the man's back. Trousers.

The boots should be so arranged as to have one sole to the bottom, the other to the top, upper to upper, heels outward, placed at the bottom of valise. Boots.

The shirt should be rolled so as to fit across the valise on top of the boots. Shirt.

The holdall should be rolled and placed on the top of the shirt. Holdall.

The socks should be pocketed and placed on the left of the holdall. Socks.

The brush and pocket ledger should be placed on the right of the holdall. Brush and pocket ledger.



14. The articles should be packed in the valise in the order given above.

15. The brace straps should now be fixed to the valise ; the side buckles should be undone, and the brace straps passed through the bridge bar buckles at the back of the valise. It will be seen that the brace straps are pierced with holes immediately below the lower coat strap loop. For the smallest men (5 ft. 5 in.) the first hole below the loop is the most comfortable point to fix the bag to, for men of 5 ft. 7 in. to 5 ft. 9 in. the second hole, and for men of 5 ft. 10 in. or upwards the 3rd or 4th hole ; but every man should try two or three holes until he finds what is most comfortable. The strap, after taking the bridge bar buckle of valise should be rebuckled to the ring strap buckle, and then the straps for supporting valise secured to the bottom of the valise.

16. The equipment should then be put on like a coat, as seen in Fig. IV., and secured to the waist belt ; when on, it should sit like Fig. V., which is about the most comfortable height. The side strap should not be too tight, else the ring will be pulled too far back ; the ring should be well out from the arm ; the bridge bar buckle of valise should be allowed to fall back about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the back ; this prevents rubbing of the tunic, and also permits a current of air between the bag and back. The rule about the side strap under the arm not being too tight is very important. The comfort of the man is the best test, and a comrade should alter the length of the side strap two or three times till perfect ease is obtained. In the same way the straps from the ring to the bottom of the valise should be fastened at different lengths until the proper support is found to be given to the valise. In no case should the ring be brought too far under the arm.

17. By taking a little trouble at first, a man will find exactly how tight the straps should be, and where the valise rests most easily. When properly carried scarcely any weight will be felt. When a soldier has once adjusted the valise to his satisfaction, and feels it quite comfortable, he will have no further difficulty.

18. The two buckles at the sides of the valise are only intended to be used for carrying small articles on the march.

19. In (Fig. XI.) the strap of the water bottle has been passed through one of these buckles, and the weight of the bottle is thereby borne partly by the braces and the bottle is kept out of the soldier's arm.

20. The canteen is only carried on the great coat when the valise is not worn and it is necessary to carry the canteens ; it is usually carried on the valise.

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FIG. I.



A Private with the pouch worn behind when on sentry without valise.

FIG. III.



A private with one pouch and great coat.

FIG. II.



A Private with the braces, two pouches, and ammunition bag.

FIG. IV.



Method of putting on the valise.





FIG. V.



Valise without the great coat.

FIG. VII.



Front of a Private 5 ft. 4 in., in marching order; one pouch, water bottle, havresack, great coat, forage cap on the coat, valise.

FIG. VI.



Front of a Private 5 ft. 7 in. in drill order; one pouch only.

FIG. VIII.



Back view of a Private 5 ft. 4 in., in marching order; one pouch, havresack, water bottle, great coat, forage cap between great coat straps and valise.



FIG. IX.

Right side of a Private (5 ft. 4 in.) in marching order; one pouch, havresack, old pattern great coat, forage cap between the great coat straps, valise.



FIG. X.

Front of a Private (5 ft. 7 in.) in service marching order; two pouches, ammunition bag, havresack, water bottle, great coat, valise, and canteen.



FIG. XI.



Right side of a Private (5 ft. 7 in.) in service marching order; two pouches, ammunition bag, water bottle, havresack, great coat, forage cap on the coat, valise, canteen on the valise.

FIG. XII.



Left side of a Private (5 ft. 7 in.) in service order; two pouches, ammunition bag, havresack, water bottle, valise with the flap, canteen on the valise, & forage cap between the great coat &





FIG. XIII.

A Private (5 ft. 4 in.) in service marching order; two pouches, ammunition bag, havresack, water bottle, valise, canteen, great coat; marching at ease with the waist-belt undone.



FIG. XV.



Left side of a Private (5 ft. 7 in.) in service order without the valise; two pouches, havresack, ammunition bag, water bottle, great coat with canteen on the coat.

FIG. XIV.

Back of a Private (5 ft. 7 in.) in service order, without the valise or canteen; two pouches ammunition bag, havresack rolled, water bottle, great coat, forage cap on the coat.

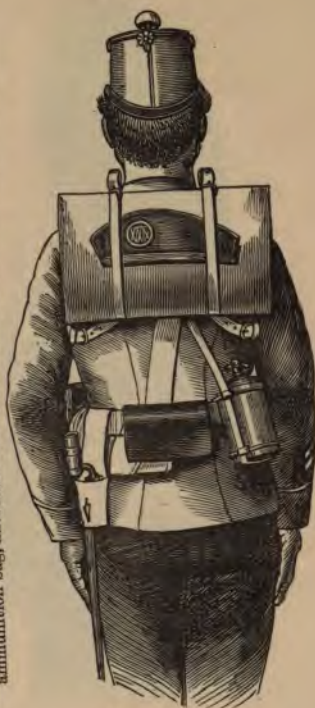


FIG. XVI.



Private in marching order, with great coat and kit packed in the valise.

N.B.—This valise appears to hang back and to be rather too low. This is owing to the two pouches and the ammunition bag being empty; if full of ammunition the balance is kept, and the men state they can carry their equipment very easily. When travelling by railway or on board coasting steamers this method is recommended, as the valises pack away more easily.



FIG. XVII.



Front of a Private, 5 ft. 11 in., in service marching order; two pouches, ammunition bag, water bottle, havresack, great coat, valise in canteen.

FIG. XVIII.



Back of a Highlander in marching order, without the water bottle, havresack or canteen, one pouch in front.



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